

NEWS

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SECRETARY ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF CANOLA INSURANCE PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1997--Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said today that the crop insurance program for canola has been expanded.

"Our goal is to convert crops covered by the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) into insurance programs as soon as sufficient actuarial information becomes available," said Glickman. "Under the NAP, producers receive assistance only if there is an area loss. Higher levels of protection are available under insurance plans, and individual losses qualify for payment. Insurance provides better protection, which will enable producers to better manage their risk."

The canola pilot insurance program was initiated in selected counties of Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington in 1995. Selected fall seeded counties in Oregon, Idaho and Georgia were added in 1997. Participation has varied from 60 to 77 percent of the insurable acreage.

Beginning this spring, canola insurance will be available in the following states and counties:

Minnesota	Beltrami, Clearwater, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomon, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, East Polk, West Polk, Red Lake
Montana	Chouteau, Fergus, Liberty, Pondera, Teton, Toole
North Dakota	Benson, Eddy, Foster, Grand Forks, McHenry, Nelson, Pembina, Renville, Stutsman, Walsh, Ward, Wells

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The announcement follows publication in the Federal Register of a regulation converting the canola pilot program into a permanent program.

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